AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): Hollow ceramics particles having a hollow structure formed by a porous shell layer comprising ceramics powders bonded to each other and having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 100 μm and a breaking strength of 5×10^4 MPa or more.

2. (original): The hollow ceramics particles as described in Claim 1, wherein the average thickness of the aforementioned porous shell layer is from 2 to 60 μm.

3. (original): The hollow ceramics particles as described in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the aforementioned ceramics powder is a mixed powder composed of powders having different particle diameters and/or kinds.

4. (currently amended): A hollow ceramics particles-containing composite material comprising hollow ceramics particles dispersed in a matrix which hollow ceramics particles formed by a porous shell layer comprising ceramics powders bonded to each other, wherein the aforementioned hollow ceramics particles are hollow particles obtained by sintering a precursor comprising the aforementioned ceramics powder ~~covered by~~covering a resin powder in such an arrangement that a part of the aforementioned ceramics powder is embedded in the resin powder.

5. (currently amended): The hollow ceramics particles-containing composite material as described in Claim 4, wherein the aforementioned hollow ceramics particles are hollow ceramics particles having a hollow structure formed by a porous shell layer comprising ceramics powders bonded to each other and having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 100 μm and a breaking strength of 5×10^4 MPa or more~~particles as described in any one of Claims 1 to 3~~.

6. (currently amended): The hollow ceramics particles-containing composite material as described in any one of claims 4, 5, 8 or 9~~Claim 4 or 5~~, wherein the aforementioned matrix is a metal.

7. (currently amended): A sliding member made of a hollow ceramics particles- containing composite material as described in any one of Claims 4 to ~~6~~5.

8. (new): The hollow ceramics particles-containing composite material as described in Claim 4, wherein the aforementioned hollow ceramics particles are hollow ceramics particles having a hollow structure formed by a porous shell layer comprising ceramics powders bonded to each other and having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 100 μm and a breaking strength of 5 x 10^4 MPa or more, wherein the average thickness of the aforementioned porous shell layer is from 2 to 60 μm.

9. (new): The hollow ceramics particles-containing composite material as described in Claim 4, wherein the aforementioned hollow ceramics particles are hollow ceramics particles having a hollow structure formed by a porous shell layer comprising ceramics powders bonded to each other and having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 100 μm and a breaking strength of 5 x 10^4 MPa or more, wherein the average thickness of the aforementioned porous shell layer is from 2 to 60 μm and wherein the ceramics powder is a mixed powder composed of powders having different particle diameters and/or kinds.